What is claimed is:

1. An image output method comprising the steps of:

obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information from storage means storing a plurality of sets of original picture data having ID information related thereto;

comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and obtaining processed image data by carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image; and

obtaining a print by printing the processed image data.

2. An image output method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

3. An image output method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the step of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

4. An image output method as defined in Claim 2, further comprising the step of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

5. An image output method as defined in any one of Claims

1 to 4, further comprising the step of managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

6. An image output apparatus comprising:

reading means for obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

storage means for storing a plurality of sets of original picture data in relation to ID information;

reading means for reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information of the original picture from the storage means;

processing means for obtaining processed image data by comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image; and

output means for obtaining a print by printing the processed image data.

7. An image output apparatus as defined in Claim 6, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

8. An image output apparatus as defined in Claim 6, further comprising copying prevention processing means for carrying

out processing to prevent copying on the processed image data and/or on the print.

9. An image output apparatus as defined in Claim 7, further comprising copying prevention processing means for carrying out processing to prevent copying on the processed image data and/or on the print.

10. An image output apparatus as defined in any one of Claims 6 to 9, further comprising information management means for managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

11. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute the procedures of:

obtaining initial image data representing an initial image recorded in an original image and ID information for identifying an original picture by reading the original image having the original picture and the ID information inseparable from the original picture;

reading equivalent original picture data representing an equivalent original picture corresponding to the ID information from storage means storing a plurality of sets of original picture data having ID information related thereto;

comparing the initial image data with the equivalent original picture data and obtaining processed image data by carrying out processing on the equivalent original picture data to cause the equivalent original picture to geometrically agree with the original picture in the initial image; and

obtaining a print by printing the processed image data.

12. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 11, wherein the ID information is secretly embedded in the initial image.

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13. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 11, the program further comprising the procedure of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

14. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 12, the program further comprising the procedure of carrying out copying prevention processing on the processed image data and/or on the print.

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15. A computer-readable recording medium as defined in any one of Claims 11 to 14, the program further comprising the procedure of managing a copyright of the original picture based on the ID information.

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